

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) Thermosetting coating compositions having a gloss level between about 10 and 70 as measured at a geometry of 60° according to the ASTM D523 standard, the compositions comprising as binder a mixture of a carboxyl group containing polyester, a glycidyl group containing acrylic copolymer and a curing agent having functional groups reactable with the polyester carboxylic acid groups, wherein 100 parts by weight of this binder comprises:

- 40.0 to 90.0 parts by weight of a carboxyl functional polyester consisting of a carboxyl functional amorphous polyester composed of from 50 to 100% mole of terephthalic acid and from 50 to 0% mole of one or more aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacid other than terephthalic acid, referring to the polyacid constituents, and of from 50 to 100% mole of neopentyl glycol or 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol or their mixtures and from 0 to 50% mole of another aliphatic and/or cycloaliphatic polyol, referring to the polyol constituents;
- 10.0 to 60.0 parts by weight of a glycidyl group containing acrylic copolymer having a number average molecular weight ~~of at least 5000~~ ranging from 10000 to 20000 and composed of 10 to 90% mole of a glycidyl group containing monomer and from 90 to 10% mole of other monomers copolymerisable with the glycidyl group containing monomers; and
- 0.5 to 15.0 parts by weight of a curing agent having functional groups reactable with the polyester's carboxylic acid groups and selected from the group consisting of triglycidyl isocyanurate, the mixture of diglycidyl terephthalate and triglycidyl trimellitate, a β -hydroxyalkylamide containing compound and their mixtures.

14. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacid other than terephthalic acid is selected from the group

comprising isophthalic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, phthalic anhydride, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, glutaric acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, 1,12-dodecanedioic acid, trimellitic acid, pyromellitic acid, or the corresponding anhydrides, and the other aliphatic or cycloaliphatic polyol is selected from ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 1,4-cyclohexanediol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, hydrogenated Bisphenol A, hydroxypivalate of neopentyl glycol, trimethylolpropane, ditrimethylolpropane, pentaerithritol.

15. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the polyacid constituent of the carboxyl functional amorphous polyester comprises from 50 to 90 % mole % of terephthalic acid or isophthalic acid or their mixtures and from 50 to 10 % mole of an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacid other than terephthalic acid or isophthalic acid.

16. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the polyacid constituent of the carboxyl functional amorphous polyester comprises from 50 to 90 % mole % of terephthalic acid and from 10 to 50 % mole of an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacid other than terephthalic acid or isophthalic acid.

17. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the polyacid constituent of the carboxyl functional amorphous polyester comprises from 50 to 90 % mole % of terephthalic acid, from 2 to 30 % mole of isophthalic acid and from 2 to 30 % mole of an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacid other than terephthalic acid or isophthalic acid.

18. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the carboxyl functional amorphous polyester has following properties:

- an acid number from 15 to 100 mg KOH/g and preferably from 30 to 70 mg KOH/g;

- a number averaged molecular weight ranging from 1100 to 15000 and
- a glass transition temperature (T_g) from 40 to 80°C;
- an ICI (cone/plate) viscosity at 200°C ranging from 5 to 15000 mPa.s.

19. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 18 wherein the number averaged molecular weight is from 1600 to 8500.

20. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the glycidyl group containing monomer is selected from glycidyl acrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, methyl glycidyl methacrylate, methyl glycidyl acrylate, 3,4-epoxycyclohexylmethyl(meth)acrylate and acrylic glycidyl ether, used singly or in combination of two or more, and the other monomers copolymerizable with the glycidyl group containing monomers is selected from:

- 40 to 100 mole percentage of acrylic or methacrylic ester monomers such as methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-decyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, n-amyl methacrylate, n-hexyl methacrylate, isoamyl methacrylate, allyl methacrylate, sec-butyl methacrylate, tert-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylbutyl methacrylate, cinnamyl methacrylate, crotyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, cyclopentyl methacrylate, methallyl methacrylate, n-octyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 2-phenylethyl methacrylate and phenyl methacrylate, and their mixtures;

0 to 60 mole percentage of other ethylenically unsaturated copolymerisable monomers such as styrene, alkyl-substituted styrenes and chloro-substituted styrenes, acrylonitrile, vinyl chloride and vinylidene fluoride and vinyl acetate, and their mixtures.

21. (Currently Amended) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the glycidyl group containing acrylic copolymer has following properties:

a number averaged molecular weight ranging from ~~5000 to 25000~~ 10000 to 20000

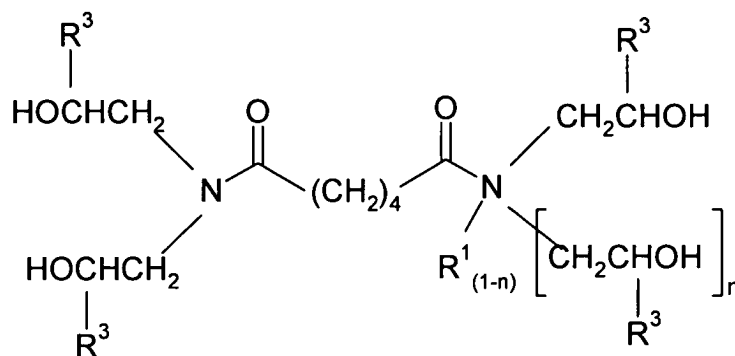
a glass transition temperature (T_g) from 40 to 85°C, measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC), according to ASTM D3418 with a heating gradient of 20°C per minute

an ICI (cone/plate) viscosity determined by the ICI method at 200°C ranging from 60 to 50000 mPa.s

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the curing agent is a polyepoxy compound and/or a β-hydroxyalkylamide containing compound.

24. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the curing agent is a β-hydroxyalkylamide according to Formula II



Formula II

wherein n is from 0.2 to 1, R^1 is selected from hydrogen and alkyl groups with 1 to 5 carbon atoms and R^3 is hydrogen or methyl.

25. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, which comprises a binder which, for 100.0 parts by weight of binder, consists of

- 60.0 to 80.0 parts by weight of the carboxyl functionalized amorphous polyester;
- 20.0 to 50.0 parts by weight of the glycidyl group containing acrylic copolymer; and
- 2.3 to 12.0 parts by weight of a β -hydroxyalkylamide curing agent.

26. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13 containing:

- one or more UV-light absorbers and/or hindered amine light stabilisers;
- one or more flow control agent;
- one or more degassing agent; and/or

one or more pigment, dye and/or filler.

27. (New) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the curing agent is a β -hydroxyalkylamide containing compound.

28. (New) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the curing agent is a β -hydroxyalkylamide containing compound according to Formula II wherein n is from 0.2 to 1, R^1 is selected from hydrogen and alkyl groups with 1 to 5 carbon atoms and R^3 is hydrogen.

29. (New) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the composition does not contain a carboxylic group containing semi-crystalline polyester.